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VOL. 60—NO. 45 | Entered as Second Class Mail Matter | PORTLAND, MAINE, SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1947 | Published by Guy Gannett Publishing Co., Inc. | FIFTEEN CENTS

Liveliest Town Meetings In Years Due Monday

Schools Top Lists In Maine Debates

The liveliest town meetings in recent years are promised voters in many Maine communities Monday when Democracy has its annual inning in municipal affairs.

At least 11 nearby towns will elect officers and act on articles, and two cities, Saco and Bath, will hold regular elections.

School matters top all others in importance, as voters weigh heavy demands for teacher salaries and school buildings against increased taxes, but in Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth and Saco contests for officers add fuel to the fires.

Howard P. Sweetser, running by petition in Falmouth, Saturday issued a statement in which he expressed belief that "the intervention of a write-in candidate is a maneuver to confuse the voter and prevent a change in the present administration."

Saco has four candidates for mayor, one Republican and one Democrat, and two running on Citizens' tickets, while in present mayor, clerk and tax collector, all Democrats, are running for seats as aldermen on a Citizens' ticket.

Cape Elizabeth's unsalty placed Republican election was stirred Saturday with the announcement of John M. Higgins, Democrat, that he would oppose Alonzo S. Murray, Republican and incumbent. It meant that GOP candidates would have opposition for the first time in more than a decade.

Falmouth voters have several issues that are expected to result in a record turnout at the polls. For the first time, action on articles will take place at night, starting at 7 p.m., to accommodate more voters than have been able to attend town meeting in the past. Townspeople are now wondering if the Town Hall will be able to accommodate the crowd expected.

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Protest To Be Aired Today At Bridgton

(Special Dispatch)

Bridgton, March 1.—Merchants and other town leaders were reported tonight to be planning "an indignation meeting" Sunday in protest against an anticipated tax boost at Monday's town meeting.

The increase was estimated at $13 by Town Manager Everard A. Wentworth. The present rate is $56 and Wentworth said he figured it would go to $69 if all the sums called for in the warrant were voted.

Salary increases are sought by the school teachers, Wentworth said, and an article calling for $10,000 to be added to other funds for eventual construction of a high school is expected to meet with opposition. A similar article was passed last year.

In town offices there are three candidates for two positions on the Board of Selectmen. Frank Evans seeks re-election, Fernando Potter and Cecil Bump are the other candidates.

Tax Rate At Kittery Due To Jump $21

(Special Dispatch)

Kittery, March 1.—A tax rate boost of $21, from $40 to $61, was forecast here tonight after voters at their annual meeting had approved articles calling for expenditures of approximately $191,506. Even that figure represented a sharp cut from the finance committee's recommendation for raising $223,000.

One of the most discussed articles passed was that opening the Kingsbigh School at North Kittery. The article in the warrant called for keeping the school closed, for vocational classes only, and the school will be opened next September. It was closed by vote of a special town meeting last Fall as an economy measure.

Among the articles passed were those calling for a $250 increase for grade school teachers and $300 for high school instructors.

An appropriation for a new was also approved and the maintenance of a memorial although

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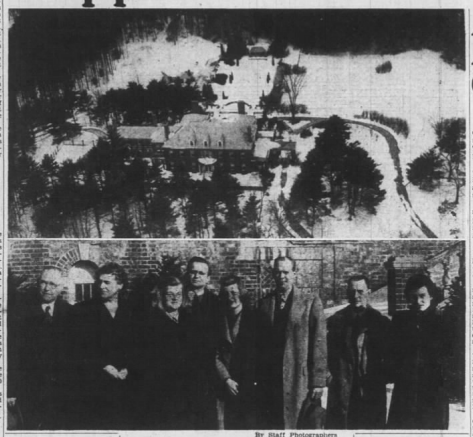
$500,000 Hyde Estate Given Crippled Children's Society



By Staff Photographers

ESTATE GIVEN TO SOCIETY FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN—Top, the $500,000 Elmhurst estate of the late John S. Hyde, Bath shipbuilder, which was given to the Pine Tree Society for Crippled Children, Saturday by heirs of Mr. Hyde. The Gannett Air Photo shows the extensive grounds and the main building, in the foreground, which will be used as a convalescent home for handicapped children. Below, left to right, Mrs. Jane Hyde Fenn, Bath; Mrs. Nancy Hyde Huggard, Wilmington, N. C.; John S. Leonard, Augusta; Dr. Henry W. Lamb, Portland; and Mrs. Jane Hyde Penn, Bath.

Acceptance Of Mansion At Bath Awaits Vote Of Pine Tree Directors

By Mark Hennessy
(Staff Correspondent)

Bath, March 1 — Gift of the half-million dollar Hyde estate on High Street by the Hyde heirs was accepted Saturday afternoon by the executive committee of the Pine Tree Society For Crippled Children, subject to confirmation by the society's directors.

The spacious, secluded estate and large brick mansion were offered to the Pine Tree Society by Mrs. Jane Hyde Fenn, Bath; Mrs. Nancy Hyde Huggard, Wilmington, N. C.; and Mrs. Sally Hyde Knights, Wellesley, Mass., daughters of the late John Holmes Hyde.

Final approval by the directors would mean establishment Here of the Hyde Memorial For Crippled Children with practically all of the Pine Tree Society's activities centralized in the fireproof mansion, built in 1914. The society's Brunswick office would be transferred to Elmhurst Mansion.

Mrs. Marie Preston, Brunswick, executive director of the Pine Tree Society, said that acquisition of the Hyde property would, "give us the opportunity we have so long desired to further our work for Maine's handicapped children."

The Hyde mansion contains 17 rooms, a number of baths, indoor swimming pool, solarium, sun porches and elevator. The library, dining room, reception hall and drawing room are on the first floor, large. Landscaping of the estate well-wooded estate of several acres includes numerous terraces.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen L. Godfrey, Winthrop, both members of the Pine Tree Society's board of directors, have launched an endowment fund for the Hyde Memorial with a gift of $25,000, according to announcement Saturday, when the directors and executive committee met with the three Hyde heirs present.

John H. Baxter, president of Colby College, is expected to attend today's meeting of the society, of which he is president, and the Hyde heirs. Baxter is in California.

John Sedgwick Hyde, grandfather of Mrs. Penn, Mrs. Huggard and Mrs. Knights, built Elmhurst on the site of a mansion owned by Gen. Thomas Hyde, founder of the Bath Iron Works. The property was originally owned by Zina Hyde, father of Gen. Hyde.

On the death of John Sedgwick Hyde, Elmhurst passed to his son, John Holmes Hyde, father of the present owners, who lived there until his death in 1941.

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Telephone Strike Threat Gains Force

By The Associated Press

Thirty-day strike notices involving more than 197,000 telephone company workers were on file in at least 35 states today, and their union president accused the employers of "stalling" in negotiations in the hope Congress would give them "a bargaining advantage."

The telephone industry "seems to want to push us into a nation wide telephone strike," a strike which the union said last November is intended to avoid," Joseph A. Beirne, president of the National Federation of Telephone Workers, said in Washington.

Beirne issued his statement after another union spokesman described the individual strike notices as part of a "coordinated program of the union."

Earlier, some union sources reported strike notices as a mere formality.

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Maine Telephone Pioneers To Join Nation In Honoring Inventor Monday

Life members of the Telephone Pioneers of America in four Maine cities Monday will join New England and the Nation in the 100th anniversary observance of the birth of Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone.

In Bangor, Lewiston, Portland and Augusta, honored guests of the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company will gather at luncheon meetings to hear a radio address by Joe E. Harrell, NET&T president.

Harrell, named a Pioneer club member, an organization of those with 20 or more years telephone company employment, will be heard from Boston over telephone wires linked to radio station WBZ in Boston.

Edward H. Shaw, the NET&T

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National 4-H Club Program Opens Here

National 4-H Club Week got underway Saturday in Greater Portland with the organization of the Peaks Island Community.

James A. Cobden, county 4-H club agent, who has announced an intensive county-wide 4-H program for the coming week, has set a 1947 Cumberland County goal of 30 clubs and 500 members.

At its initial meeting Saturday, the Falmouth Fireside 4-H club elected the following officers: Stanley L. Labbe, vice president; Anne B. Rasmussen, secretary-treasurer; and Hildegarde R. Stubbs, social chairman.

Josephine P. Morris, Dorothy E. Mercer and Barbara H. Fochler also were among the charter applicants, with owning being developed by Miss Fochler.

Leader of the new Falmouth Foreside 4-H unit is Mrs. Arthur D. Hawkins. A University of Maine home economics graduate, The club will hold its next meeting at 2 p. m. Saturday, March 22.

The theme of National 4-H Club Week is Working Together For A Better Home and Wider Community.

Terrorists Kill 19 In Palestine

Jerusalem, March 1. (AP)—Nineteen persons were killed and 40 wounded in Arab terrorist and gunfire today in torrent, rain extending from Jerusalem to Haifa and the bloody Hoy Lalil appeared tonight to be rushing toward complete British military rule.

British soldiers, declaring they were on a "martial law footing," searched Palestine in full military might for the heavily-armed Arabs who made the night attacks with the bombing of a British officers' club in Jerusalem in which 16 persons were killed and 17 wounded.

The government tonight imposed a curfew in the Jewish sections of Jerusalem and restricted all residents of Tel Aviv, Petah Tiqvah and Ramat Gan to house curfew. British military patrolled Jerusalem streets with armored cars and gun carriers, while security

Continued On Page 10A; 4th Col.

Cowan Urges Public Defender To Cut Maine Divorce Rate

Frank I. Cowan, former attorney general of Maine, declared here Saturday that dissolution of marriages in the state would approach the vanishing point" in several years if statutes made provisions for public defenders in divorce cases.

"Libels would be cut down tremendously if the law required a public defender to appear in court and cross-examine parties in all divorces," he said in an interview.

Cowan's comment was in elaboration of views he expressed in a letter to a newspaper last week.

"I have seen in the newspapers recently a lot of discussion of the divorce problem, and in the discussions raise considerable talk temporarily, and are quickly forgotten as some new matter, like a heavy snowfall or a warm wave or a cold wave, takes people's attention," he noted in the communication.

"If anyone wants to really do something about the divorce problem," he continued, "why not suggest that one of the bills before the Legislature be amended to provide for a public defender in divorce cases who shall represent the State, and require further that no divorce decree shall be consented in behalf of the State unless the presiding justice, after a formal request from the public defender, decides that such a consent is not necessary."

Cowan suggested Saturday that provisions of any change in law could "require a libelant to pay into the court for the benefit of the State of Maine to support the office of public defender."

He said he favored payment of at least a $50 fee with the filing of a divorce libel for support of a public defender, except in instances of "acute poverty."

The divorce problem to which the attorney alluded has been the subject of several bills introduced in Augusta.

One bill, filed by Representative George W. Weeks (R) South Portland, would require a year's interval to elapse in divorce cases before a divorce decree would become final.

However, the bill contained the proviso that the decree, for any good cause, could be set aside within the year's time.

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Trailblazer Completes Flight

Tokyo-Minn. Run Takes 29 Hours

Minneapolis, March 1. (UP)—Northwest Airlines "Trailblazer" completed a 29-hour flight from Tokyo to Minneapolis late today.

The Douglas DC-4 covered the 6,258 miles in 29 hours, including a stop at Fairbanks, Alaska, at 3:35 p. m. CST with its party of airline technicians on the survey flight. Regular flights to Minneapolis will begin Monday.

Oriental were to start in early Spring.

On the flight the giant plane landed at Shemya in the Aleutians and at Anchorage, Alaska.

The trip actually began in Manila, P. I., where it touched down Tokyo for a brief stopover before winging eastward over the North Pacific. The complete Manila-Minneapolis trip took 38 hours.

Gibson Aids Red Cross Drive Here

Harvey D. Gibson, National Red Cross Fund Campaign chairman and prominent New York businessman, will address canvassers, action captains, unit leaders, division chairmen and branch workers at 2 p. m. today at Red Cross Headquarters as the local fund drive gets under way.

Gibson, a native of Maine and graduate of Bowdoin College, will discuss the peacetime importance of the Red Cross.

House-to-house canvassing will begin Monday. Mrs. Erwin W.

Continued On Page 2A; 4th Col.

8-Inch Snowstorm Threatens Maine

A storm, which the weatherman said would deposit eight inches of snow, threatened Maine late Saturday night.

The local U. S. Weather Bureau forecast moderate to heavy snow throughout the state today with seasonably cold, temperatures. More snow was predicted for Sunday.

The weatherman said the storm might turn to sleet and rain along the coast tonight.

Minister Urges Two-Year Wait Before Action On Labor Laws

A two-year minimum "cooling-off period" on labor legislation, to allow time for emotions, now hysteria, may have abated, was recommended Saturday by the Rev. Elwin L. Wilson, Portland district superintendent of the Maine Methodist Conference.

The Rev. Mr. Wilson's suggestion was made in an open letter to the Maine Legislative Labor Committee in which he registered opposition to the pending Barlow, Talb, Haskell and Chase labor bills.

In citing that industrial unrest follows every war, and "we are in such a period," the Portland Methodist leader said:

"Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the committee, to recommend the passage of some of the bills under consideration, until a 'cooling-off period' of at least two years, so that the present anti-labor hysteria may have abated, and we may look for some constructive ways of bringing happiness and

Continued On Page 10A; 4th Col.

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